

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: June 23, 2005

From: Diane C. Eidam

File: Book Item 4.12
Information

**Ref.: PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2005-06 ENVIRONMENTAL
ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM**

Issue: Under Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(e) the Commission is charged with the responsibility of funding an annual Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program as scored and prioritized by the State Resources Agency in accordance with the funding level provided in the State Budget Act (see attached project lists).

In Fiscal Year 2005-06 it is anticipated that \$10 million may be made available for this program.

Background: The EEM Program is a statutorily mandated program typically funded at a minimum of \$10 million a year. Under EEM statutes, the Resources Agency is responsible for: developing and adopting procedures and criteria; evaluating grant proposals; submitting a list of ranked projects recommended for funding; and finding that the projects are eligible for funding under Article XIX of the State Constitution. The Resources Agency's procedures and criteria contain a detailed, quantitative scoring mechanism that is used to evaluate and rank projects in priority order by assigning point scores to each project. In accordance with the provisions of Section 187 and 188 of the Streets and Highway Code, an attempt is made to allocate 40% of the total amount recommended to projects in the northern counties and 60% of the total amount to projects in southern counties.

The EEM Program is designed to undertake "environmental enhancement and mitigation projects that are directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities". EEM projects must provide environmental enhancements and mitigation over and above what is otherwise called for under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

The general categories of EEM projects eligible for funding are:

- Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants. Projects may be within or outside the right-of-way of the related transportation facility. Projects within the right-of-way, however, are not intended to supplant or augment highway landscaping that would normally be funded by the responsible public agency. Any planting within public road rights-of-way shall be limited to trees only.
- Resource Lands acquisition, restoration or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way, acquired for proposed transportation improvements. Resource lands include natural areas, wetlands, forests, woodlands,

meadows, streams, or other areas containing fish or wildlife habitat. Enhancement of resource lands may include the restoration of wildlife corridors.

- Roadside Recreational acquisition and/or development of roadside recreational opportunities, including roadside rests, scenic overlooks, trails, trailheads, sno-parks, and parks.

Any local, state or federal agency or nonprofit entity may apply for and receive grants under the EEM Program. The applicant is not required to be a transportation organization but must be able to demonstrate adequate charter or enabling authority to carry out the type of project proposed. Two or more entities may participate in a joint project.

For the FY 2005-06 EEM Program, the Resources Agency evaluated \$18.7 million worth of projects, all competing for the \$10 million. From this list of projects, the Agency recommended to the Commission a total of eighty-five (85) projects 42 projects in the north for \$9.6 million, and 43 projects in the south for \$9.1 million. Ultimately, the Resources Agency is recommending funding seventeen (16) projects in the north totaling \$4 million, and thirty (29) projects in the south totaling \$6 million. Four of these projects are in excess of the Agency's generally established limit of \$250,000. The Resources Agency provided individual written justifications for the four projects (justifications attached). Commission staff reviewed the justifications and concurs with the Agency's action.

Each agency that is being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to the August CTC meeting or they would be subject to removal from the list and the next eligible project will move up for funding.

Attachment - 2005-06 EEM List

EEMP Grant Recommendations for FY 2005-06				\$10,000,000 Funding Level			
Projects Recommended for Funding - Priority Order							
APP ID							
NEW#	CAT	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	TOTAL PROJ \$ VALUE	GRANT AWARD	TOTAL SCORE	
Southern Counties							
2022	RR	Ventura County	Piru-Camulos Recreational Trail	\$1,402,699	\$250,000	88.0	
1032	HLUF	El Monte City, Dept. of Community Services	El Monte Urban Forest Project	\$300,000	\$250,000	86.5	
1003	HLUF	North East Trees	LA River Greenway: Headworks to Polywog Pond	\$235,600	\$225,000	86.0	
1027	HLUF	Goleta Valley Beautiful	US 101/Los Cameros Interchange SW Tree Planting	\$47,566	\$32,108	86.0	
1014	HLUF	South Gate City, PWD	South Gate Urban Reforestation	\$406,920	\$244,800	85.5	
1012	HLUF	Los Angeles City, Environmental Affairs Dept.	Growing Livable Neighborhoods	\$350,000	\$250,000	85.0	
1031	HLUF	Hollywood Beautification Team	Native Habitat Restoration	\$227,943	\$149,205	83.0	
2005	RR	El Monte City, Dept. of Community Services	Rio Hondo River Park Project	\$300,000	\$250,000	82.5	
2027	RR	Carpinteria City	Carpinteria Creek Park Project	\$325,000	\$250,000	82.0	
3001	RL	Back Country Land Trust	Viejas West Acquisition	\$500,000	\$300,000	81.9	
1028	HLUF	Koreatown Youth & Community Center	Greening the Red Line	\$218,233	\$198,233	81.0	
2017	RR	Department of Parks and Recreation	Chino Hills SP Visitor Center	\$2,548,000	\$250,000	80.5	
1035	HLUF	Chimney Canyon Fire Safe Council	Scripps Ranch's Main Access Road	\$246,781	\$182,949	78.5	
2004	RR	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Audubon Nature Trail	\$235,815	\$181,575	78.5	
2011	RR	Los Angeles County DPW	Arroyo Seco Bicycle Trail - Phase I	\$6,821,666	\$250,000	78.5	
3008	RL	Department of Parks and Recreation	Desert Cahuilla Preservation Project	\$1,500,000	\$250,000	78.4	
3013	RL	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority	Wilson Valley Conservation Resource Acquisition	\$1,452,000	\$237,330	78.4	
2002	RR	San Diego County, DPW	Valley Center RR Heritage Trail	\$387,310	\$225,000	77.0	
3016	RL	Department of Fish and Game	Mono County Burcham Flat Wetlands Acquisition	\$115,000	\$110,000	76.4	
3006	RL	Hemet City	Avery Canyon Acquisition	\$796,000	\$250,000	75.9	
1015	HLUF	Visalia City	Mill Creek and Downtown Plaza	\$288,580	\$242,100	74.5	
1021	HLUF	Irvine City	Jeffrey/I-40 Overcrossing Bike Trail Landscaping	\$135,460	\$108,368	74.5	
3005	RL	Friends of the Desert Mountains	Coachella Valley Preserve Acquisition	\$500,000	\$250,000	73.9	
1030	HLUF	Pasadena City	Arroyo Seco So. Entrance Planing Restoration	\$75,000	\$75,000	71.5	
3012	RL	Urban Corps of San Diego	Grantville Trolley Station	\$290,200	\$250,000	70.4	
1019	HLUF	Riverside County Trans. Dept.	I-15/Cantu-Galleano Ranch Road Interchange Enhancement	\$890,000	\$250,000	67.0	
2023	RR	San Diego River Park - Lakeside Conservancy	RiverWay Trail Project	\$267,500	\$250,000	64.5	
1010	HLUF	Los Angeles County DPW	Vermont Avenue Enhancement	\$1,689,000	\$52,000	63.0	
1009	HLUF	Los Angeles County DPW	Rosemead Blvd.	\$324,000	\$186,332	56.0	
Totals				\$22,876,273	\$6,000,000		
% Splits at \$10,000,000 Funding Level					60%		
Northern Counties							

EEMP Grant Recommendations for FY 2005-06				\$10,000,000 Funding Level			
Projects Recommended for Funding - Priority Order							
APP ID							
NEW#	CAT	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	TOTAL PROJ \$ VALUE	GRANT AWARD	TOTAL SCORE	
1034	HLUF	Our City Forest	Trees for Hwy 85 Neighborhoods	\$238,000	\$188,000	88.5	
3003	RL	Shasta Land Trust	Cow Creek Watershed Easement Acquisition	\$2,820,000	\$500,000	85.9	
3007	RL	Department of Fish and Game	Sonoma Creek/Bisso Ranch Acquisition	\$2,800,000	\$500,000	85.4	
3004	RL	Mendocino Land Trust	Ridgewood Ranch Conservation Area	\$5,368,000	\$500,000	84.9	
2024	RR	California Wildlife Foundation	San Joaquin River - Walk Your Watershet Trail	\$1,071,807	\$250,000	84.5	
1004	HLUF	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Basis "RR" Landscaping	\$395,000	\$250,000	84.5	
1016	HLUF	Soledad City	Soledad Tree Beautification and Safety Project	\$1,250,000	\$250,000	84.0	
2030	RR	Folsom City	Folsom Parkway Rail Trail Gap Closure	\$250,000	\$215,000	83.5	
3011	RL	Sacramento County	American River Parkway Invasive Plant Management Project	\$1,312,806	\$250,000	83.4	
2008	RR	Shasta County DPW	Hat Creek Park Improvement	\$203,500	\$183,000	83.0	
2006	RR	San Mateo County, Env. Svc. Agcy.	Mirada Surf Coastal Trail Development	\$740,000	\$100,000	82.0	
1036	HLUF	Berkeley City	Berkeley Urban Reforestation	\$506,332	\$247,327	82.0	
2020	RR	Department of Parks and Recreation	West Ridge Road to Trail Conversation	\$246,000	\$209,100	81.5	
2012	RR	Sacramento County Regional Parks	Dry Creek Parkway Trail	\$5,774,675	\$100,000	80.5	
1007	HLUF	Parlier City	Parlier - Safety Trail & Landscaping Phase II	\$1,160,000	\$195,573	80.5	
3010	RL	Sacramento County	Dry Creek Parkway Acquisition	\$365,280	\$62,000	80.4	
			Totals	\$24,501,400	\$4,000,000		
			% Splits at \$10,000,000 Funding Level		40%		
			Grand Total	\$47,377,673	\$10,000,000		